

back into the economy. That is why that tax credit was given to help those families with those expenses in a difficult environment.

Some people say that this was a mistake by the Republicans, but the fact is we know now as the facts have come out it was no mistake. The Senate, in fact, put this tax credit in for Erin and her daughter, Adrienne. But the Republicans in the House decided they were not going to accept it. They wanted to use the money that that tax credit would cost to give a greater tax cut to those people making over a million dollars. If they had given a \$400 tax credit to Erin and her daughter, Adrienne, and to other similarly situated families and children, those millionaires would have only gotten a tax cut this year of \$88,000 as opposed to \$93,000.

So the Republicans in the House made a choice that they were going to deny Erin and Adrienne the tax credit. They were going to give it to the millionaires.

Now, we understand that the Senate is going to change this. The Senate has come to its senses. The Senate now understands what they have done to Erin and her daughter, Adrienne, and the impact that they are having on her ability to hold their family together. But we are also told that the majority leader, the Republican majority leader, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DELAY) has said he is not going to do that. He is not going to pass that tax cut to Erin and her daughter, Adrienne. He is not going to do it. Republicans in the Senate who sponsored it originally, who voted for it, who participated have said we wanted to do this. It is a matter of equity. It is a matter of fairness. It is a matter of justice to these families who are working hard, as the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE) stated, playing by the rules, doing what we asked them, that they should be able to share in this tax cut like other families with children. But the Republicans in the House say no.

They say no to 12 million children and families earning between \$10,000 and \$26,000 a year. However you measure it, it is not very much money to survive in American society today. These are people who work hard. They do not get paid terribly well, but they get up every day and they go to work and they do many of the jobs that many other Americans would prefer not to do. And that is why we created the tax credit. To help them. And somehow, somehow along the way to finalizing that tax bill, somehow the Republicans in the House became mean spirited. Somehow they lost their sense of humanity and somehow they lost their direction in terms of economic justice and decency for all families and all children in America.

It is a sad and tragic day when a party loses its direction and becomes that cynical about decent people like Erin and her daughter, Adrienne.

#### TAX CUT HELPS WORKING AMERICANS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. TANCREDI) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. TANCREDI. Mr. Speaker, it is an interesting use of words that are employed to describe this event, this process, this phenomenon we call a tax cut, and those who are helped and those who are hurt. And we sit here tonight and we listen to people describe the perils of those who do not receive a "tax cut."

Tax cut. Now, let us analyze those two words. A tax. Something people pay. A cut. A reduction in that amount. In the case that was just brought to us and the case that, in fact, has been characterized over and over and over again as the people who do not, who will not be getting this tax cut, who are purposefully left out of this tax cut because we are so hard-hearted on our side, we are so mean and hateful to people who make a little bit of money, very poor people, so that we decided, I know what. Let us make their life even more miserable. We will not give them their tax cut.

Mr. Speaker, it has nothing to do with this process of a tax cut. Because, of course, the people that we are talking about here, the people that are suggested are not participating in this, do not pay taxes; therefore, we cannot cut the taxes they pay. And they do not get a refund of those taxes because, in fact, they do not come to the government in the first place.

So now if you want to simply move money from one source to another, if you want to redistribute the wealth, which is, of course, part of our great tax scheme and something the Democrats have been so cozy with for so long, something they feel strongly about, something they can endorse wholeheartedly, moving money from people who pay taxes to those who do not, that is a different plan. That is okay. We do it all the time. It is called welfare. And that is, of course, an acceptable thing in this Nation. It is just not part of a tax cut plan.

The reality is that this is a problem we face with more than just this issue. The whole concept of what we are doing for working Americans, what we are doing with a tax cut proposal that is designed to increase the number of jobs out there. I certainly support this concept. I certainly supported the job stimulus package that was passed here in the House, and I hope that it works. It is designed to do just that. If we leave more money in the hands of the people out there to invest, to, in fact, create jobs, that is good, I am happy. Then people like the ones that we were talking about here earlier and that had been brought to our attention who are in the lower income levels of society, those people will benefit also and that is the whole purpose of a stimulus package. It is to increase the economic benefit to all Americans, to all working Americans. That is the whole idea.

Now, let us look at another aspect of this that I never ever see in terms of this being discussed, in terms of what really could help American jobholders or those people who are job seekers, the millions of Americans who are today unemployed or underemployed, the people who are making minimum wage, the people who are desperately looking to better their lives and are wondering about, in fact, what the government can do to help.

Well, I agree that one of the things we can do to help is, in fact, propose and, in fact, pass a tax cut like we have done. But there is something else that we can do and then I would encourage all of my friends on the other side of the aisle to help us do. And that is to do something about the massive number of people who are in this country illegally and working illegally, people who are here, low-wage, low-skilled workers who have come into the United States.

There are something like 13 million, maybe more than that, who are here today employed and they are actually illegally employed. They are employed by people who know that they are here illegally but it does not matter. They take their jobs, the jobs that could be going to other Americans, and, in fact, we allow that to occur. We encourage that.

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We have all kinds of loopholes in our immigration, not just in the borders that exist, not just in the fact that we have porous borders through which these people come, take the jobs that American citizens would take if they had the opportunity, and in fact, even those jobs, American citizens who are working, many of them are working for very low wages. As has been talked about tonight over and over again, that is true, but the reality is that those wages are kept low by the massive number of people who are coming into this country illegally, with low skills and, therefore, get paid low wages, and just the numbers here depress the wage base.

I would like to have people support our efforts to try and secure the borders and stop all the loopholes in our immigration law. That would help working Americans.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BISHOP of Utah). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. DREIER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. DREIER addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

#### FAMILIES DO MATTER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. SCHAKOWSKY) is recognized for 5 minutes.